



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TOPEKA, KANSAS MAN PLEADS GUILTY ON CRACK COCAINE CHARGE

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Nathaniel Todd Culpepper**, 30, Topeka, Kansas, entered a guilty plea today before U.S. District Judge Richard D. Rogers to one count of possession with the intent to distribute crack cocaine.

Melgren said that Culpepper admitted at his plea that on December 14, 2002, the car he was a passenger in was stopped by Topeka Police officers for a traffic violation and the officers determined that there was a warrant for Culpepper's arrest. The officers arrested and searched Culpepper and found approximately 9 grams (approximately .32 ounce) of crack cocaine hidden on his person. Culpepper admitted that he intended to distribute the crack cocaine.

Culpepper faces a minimum of five years and a maximum of forty years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for December 5, 2003, at 10:30 a.m.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Topeka Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney James Brown in this prosecution.